

**Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee  
Orientation Session Survey Results  
February 9, 2009, 3:00 – 7:30pm  
City Hall, Bertha Landes Room or Boards and Commissions Room  
600 Fourth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98124**

Approximately 25 people attended the orientation session and 11 people responded to the survey.

**1. What about the orientation session do you feel worked well?**

- Overall it was good and the presentations were not too long. I liked that we had ample time for Q&A.
- History of neighborhood planning and its relationship to the Growth Management Act (GMA) and current population/jobs growth in-city were excellent.
- I thought the background sessions on the comprehensive plan by Tom were well done, neutral and concise. Dave's presentation on the history of neighborhood planning was pretty good, but felt fairly flip.
- I thought the presentations gave a good account of the history of the planning process. The first 4 presentations were the right length.
- The history, background, statistics, etc. were good & informative.
- Great interactive race and social justice activities. It drove home the point.
- Staff was congenial.
- Overview of planning process and principles.
- Julie and Glen's interactive portion and enthusiastic delivery style.
- Variety of high level presenters from city staff.
- Nice chance to get to know other NPAC members and alternates. Aside from that - the information was pretty basic from city staff - Cindi Barker's presentation was best.

**2. What about the orientation session do you feel did not work as well?**

- I thought that the Growth Management Act session was a little rough, just because it is hard to explain in 15 minutes because it's so complex!
- No clarity as to how future growth goals for neighborhoods will be set.
- Having been through other Race and Social Justice workshops, ours felt a little rushed and the resistance in the room was pretty high. Maybe an additional "optional" session could be offered later, as the outreach plans near completion.
- I thought there was too much time allocated to the racial and social justice section. However I thought the videos shown were thought provoking and worthwhile.
- The politicizing of the issues via embarrassing videos with Nickels. It made me feel like I was watching a campaign ad. Same with SDOT's presentation. Really schlocky and more of a campaign thing.
- I had anticipated more detail on the first neighborhood planning process. Now I understand I will need to do some serious reading to get caught up. That's ok, but unanticipated.
- Seating in a circle may have been better. Background air conditioner rumble and lack of sound system detracted from clear communication. Lack of provision for non-member "inclusion" Lack of handouts by presenters; no "take homes"

- Too long. Participants asked "questions" that weren't questions at all; they were rambling statements that had little to do with the topic at hand or our responsibilities on the NPAC.
- Too much "talking at" from presenters.
- Length
- Information provided was too basic. City staff was boring.

### **3. What specific suggestions do you have for improving this orientation session?**

- Better PA system.
- Thought it went pretty good and people looked engaged. However, people working on their laptops were distracting and, I felt, disrespectful of what was being attempted. Ban laptops and Blackberries!
- Decrease the total length of the session. Shorten the question and answer period for committee members.
- Get these people to do these presentations and make them digitally available, the good ones that is: Lyle, Tom, David. Get Jim Diers in there to give a talk.
- More time on how the neighborhood plans are approved and implemented. I feel this was short changed.
- Race and social justice section should have been first. Great equalizer/ice breaker/warm up. This group has been tasked with essential tasks before it has developed a sense of "team" - too much focus on tasks/decisions. Flip chart main ideas so all can see what is said and agree/correct.
- Reduce length. Plead with participants to ask concise questions and not make dramatic statements that do nothing to further the conversation or clarify the issue at hand.
- Make it more interactive.
- Should have happened before 1st NPAC meeting.
- Round table with more interaction among NPAC members and alternates.

### **4. What other comments do you have?**

- Really loved the race and social justice component. It was very, very good.
- SDOT presentation was OK, but not in-depth on Seattle Transportation Plan and transit. Citing the Space Needle as a major trip attractor was naive. Seattle Center (not mentioned) is the big trip generator in the Uptown Urban Center.
- Overall, good information. But we don't have all the players there. We need youth. We need the school district. Those are ones I think of off the top of my head.
- No point in the agenda for public comment. Should be such at outset and conclusion of each meeting. Question: How many of the members of this body actually participated in any fashion in drafting the Neighborhood Plans being revised?
- Thanks for putting this together on such a short notice.
- Thanks. Overall good info. Thanks to Sebat for seeing that we had food and beverages.
- Generally well attended and informative. Provide links to members of plans referenced in presentations.
- The group obviously wanted to talk about the density bill in the legislature, but was pretty much shut down. The city staff seemed to have little knowledge of the topic.